Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 177984
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER
APPROVED BY NEA:NAVELIOTES
IO:GHELMAN
S/S-O: RCASTRODALE
----------010134 140244Z /61
O 140206Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 177984

EXDIS, FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PINS, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANON: PROMOTING THE PRESIDENCY

REF: BEIRUT 3857

1. WE APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE SARKIS TO TAKE A MORE VISIBLE PUBLIC POSITION, TO GO ON TV AND RADIO, AND APPEAL TO THE CITIZENRY, ETC. IF SARKIS IS UNWILLING TO MAKE A PUBLIC APPEARANCE ON ISSUES WHICH HE BELIEVES ARE DESTINED TO FAIL, WE WONDER WHETHER THERE ARE SOME ISSUES OR STEPS HE COULD MENTION PUBLICLY IN ADDRESSES TO THE NATION WHICH WOULD HAVE NO REAL RISK OF FAILURE. OUR THOUGHT IS THAT THE "APPEARANCE" OF ACTIVITY OR DECISIVENESS, HOWEVER COSMETIC, COULD BE HELPFUL NOT ONLY TO THE PRESIDENCY, BUT TO THE SITUATION IN GENERAL. WE HAVE BEEN THINKING OF SUCH STEPS OR ACTIVITIES, AND YOU AND THE EMBASSY COULD PROBABLY THINK OF OTHERS. THEY
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WOULD BE THE SORT OF THINGS ANY POLITICIAN ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD COULD CHANCE.

2. WE SUGGEST THAT IN YOUR NEXT MEETING WITH SARKIS (OR BOUTROS) YOU RECALL THE PLEAS OF THE TWO MEN TO YOU AND LANE FOR U.S. UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR POSITION. YOU MIGHT SAY THAT THE U.S. HAS BEEN SYMPATHETIC AND SEES

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THE STRAITS THE LEBANESE LEADERS HAVE HAD TO FACE;
OUR WHOLE POLICY HAS RESTED ON SUPPORT FOR SARKIS, HIS
GOVERNMENT, AND HIS UNIFYING POLICIES. WE CONSIDER IT
CRITICALLY IMPORTANT THAT SARKIS NOT RESIGN.

3. THEN YOU MIGHT SUGGEST SOME OF THE FOLLOUING STEPS
AS ILLUSTRATIONS OF WHAT MIGHT BE DONE COMPARATIVELY
SAFELY TO ASSERT THE PRESTIGE AND AUTHORITY OF THE
PRESIDENCY:

-- HE COULD GIVE TO THE NATION A STATUS REPORT ON EFFORTS
TO RESOLVE THE PRESENT CRISIS, SAYING THAT SERIOUS AND
SINCERE EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE BY RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE TO
COME UP WITH NEW ARRANGEMENTS THAT WOULD PREVENT SUCH
INCIDENTS FROM RECURRING.

-- HE COULD ANNOUNCE THE APPOINTMENT OF OR THE CALLING
UPON OF A PARLIAMENTARY GROUP TO DEVELOP IDEAS TO
RESOLVE THE PROBLEM. WE UNDERSTAND ONE SUCH GROUP IS
ACTUALLY MEETING ALREADY, AND SARKIS COULD CALL UPON
THEM TO PRESENT THEIR IDEAS.

-- HE COULD ANNOUNCE A MEETING OF A GROUP OF BANKERS AND
APPROPRIATE MINISTRY PERSONNEL TO LOOK INTO WAYS OF
MAKING SOFT LOANS AVAILABLE FOR THOSE WHO SUFFERED
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PROPERTY DAMAGE DURING THE FIGHTING.

-- HE COULD APPOINT A WISE MEN'S COUNCIL OF PROMINENT
CITIZENS OR POLITICIANS TO GIVE ADVICE TO HIM OR THE
CABINET ON THE PRESENT SITUATION.

-- HE COULD TALK ABOUT PLANS FOR REBUILDING THE ARMY.
HE COULD ANNOUNCE AN EXPANSION IN THE POLICE AND ISF,
AND CALL FOR PUBLIC SUPPORT, VOLUNTEERS, CONTRIBUTIONS,
ETC. HE COULD ANNOUNCE THE APPOINTMENT OF A SPECIAL
COMMISSION TO STUDY UTILITY OF COMPULSORY MILITARY
SERVICE.

-- HE COULD DESCRIBE THE INTENSE INTERNATIONAL INTEREST
IN LEBANON'S PROBLEMS, POINT OUT HOW ACTIVELY THE INTER-
NATIONAL COMMUNITY RESPONDED IN SETTING UP UNIFIL, AND
HOW THIS COULD BE A WAY OF RESTORING LAW AND ORDER TO
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-- HE COULD DESCRIBE THE FAIRLY IMPRESSIVE ECONOMIC

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PROGRESS MADE IN THE LAST HALF OF 1977, GETTING ACROSS
THE IMPLICATION THAT VARIOUS INCIDENTS SINCE THE BEGINNING

OF THIS YEAR HAD INTERRUPTED THAT IMPORTANT PROGRESS.

-- HE COULD SAY HE WAS SUMMONING LEADERS OF VARIOUS
FACTIONS TO THE PALACE. HE COULD CONVOKE AN INTER-
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-- HE COULD ANNOUNCE THE NEW POSITIONING OF LEBANESE
POLICE AT FLASHPOINTS.

-- HE COULD APPOINT A SPECIAL "CONCILIATION SQUAD"
WHOSE DUTY WOULD BE TO LOOK INTO THE FACTS WHEN AN
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INCIDENT BEGAN IN ORDER TO KEEP MATTERS FROM GETTING
OUT OF HAND.

-- HE COULD EXPLAIN THE IMPLICATIONS OF A BRAIN DRAIN ON
LEBANON'S FUTURE, AND NEED TO PREVENT IT.

-- HE COULD ANNOUNCE PLANS FOR SENDING ARMY UNITS SOUTH,
IMPLYING A SOLUTION TO THE HADDAD PROBLEM.

-- HE COULD USE, IF AVAILABLE, FILMS OF ARMY TRAINING
ACTIVITIES, THE WHITE HOUSE TREE-PLANTING CEREMONY, THE
REBUILDING OF THE PORT.

4. IT SEEMS TO US THAT EVEN A STATUS REPORT OF SORTS
COULD DO NO HARM. THE LEBANESE DO SOME THINGS IMPRES-
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AND HE COULD RECOUNT, PERHAPS WITH SPECIFIC EXAMPLES,
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APPROVED BY:IO:/UNA:JFTEFFT
S/S-O:MMCCALLIE
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O 151054Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0000

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 177984

EXDIS FOR AMB LEONARD FROM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 177984 ACTION BEIRUT DATED JULY 14, 1978.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 177984

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UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE177984
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780758/aaaabxcf.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: a8e50773-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Reference: 78 BEIRUT 3857
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2002106
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANON: PROMOTING THE PRESIDENCY
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PINS, LE, (SARKIS, ELIAS)
To: BEIRUT
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a8e50773-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
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